

3-24-2009

# The Hilltop 3-24-2009

Hilltop Staff

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WEATHER



48

33

Tomorrow:



51

41

Established  
1924

VOLUME 92, NO. 118

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Tuesday's  
Notebook

CAMPUS

READ TO SEE WHICH HOWARD STUDENT HAS HIGH HOPES FOR HER OWN TELEVISION SERIES.

METRO

FIND OUT HOW MAYOR FENTY MAY PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME SUMMER 'GREEN' WITH GREEN JOBS.

LIFE & STYLE

LEARN WHAT TO EXPECT FROM INTERNSHIPS AS WELL AS THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF PROFESSIONAL PROTOCOL.

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# AIG Returns \$50 Mil in Executive Bonuses

BY JADA F. SMITH  
Nation & World Editor

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo released a statement yesterday afternoon saying \$50 million in American International Group (AIG) bonus funds have been returned. Fifteen of 20 executives at AIG who were awarded hefty cash bonuses have given the funds back in full and, of the top 10 highest earners, nine have given the money back. AIG is one of the companies that received funds from taxpayer dollars in the banking bailout from earlier this

year. According to CNN.com, Cuomo said the full \$165 million that was paid in executive bonuses will be hard to recover because some of it was paid to non-Americans, and it is not in their jurisdiction. "It might be possible to recoup approximately \$80 million," Cuomo said. "I am hopeful that more AIG employees will heed the example set by their colleagues and pay the money back." Junior psychology major Monique Major said the returned money is just too little too late to serve as an apology to the American public. "I think it took too long," Ma-

jor said. "They should have returned it faster. I think they shouldn't have taken it in the first place, they knew where the money came from. I think the whole situation is very twisted." Christina Pretto, Vice President of Corporate Media Relations at AIG released a statement saying, "we are deeply gratified that a vast majority of FP's [Financial Products] senior leadership have expressed a willingness to forsake their recent retention payments. We continue to review the responses of our other FP employees and we appreciate Attorney General Cuomo's support."

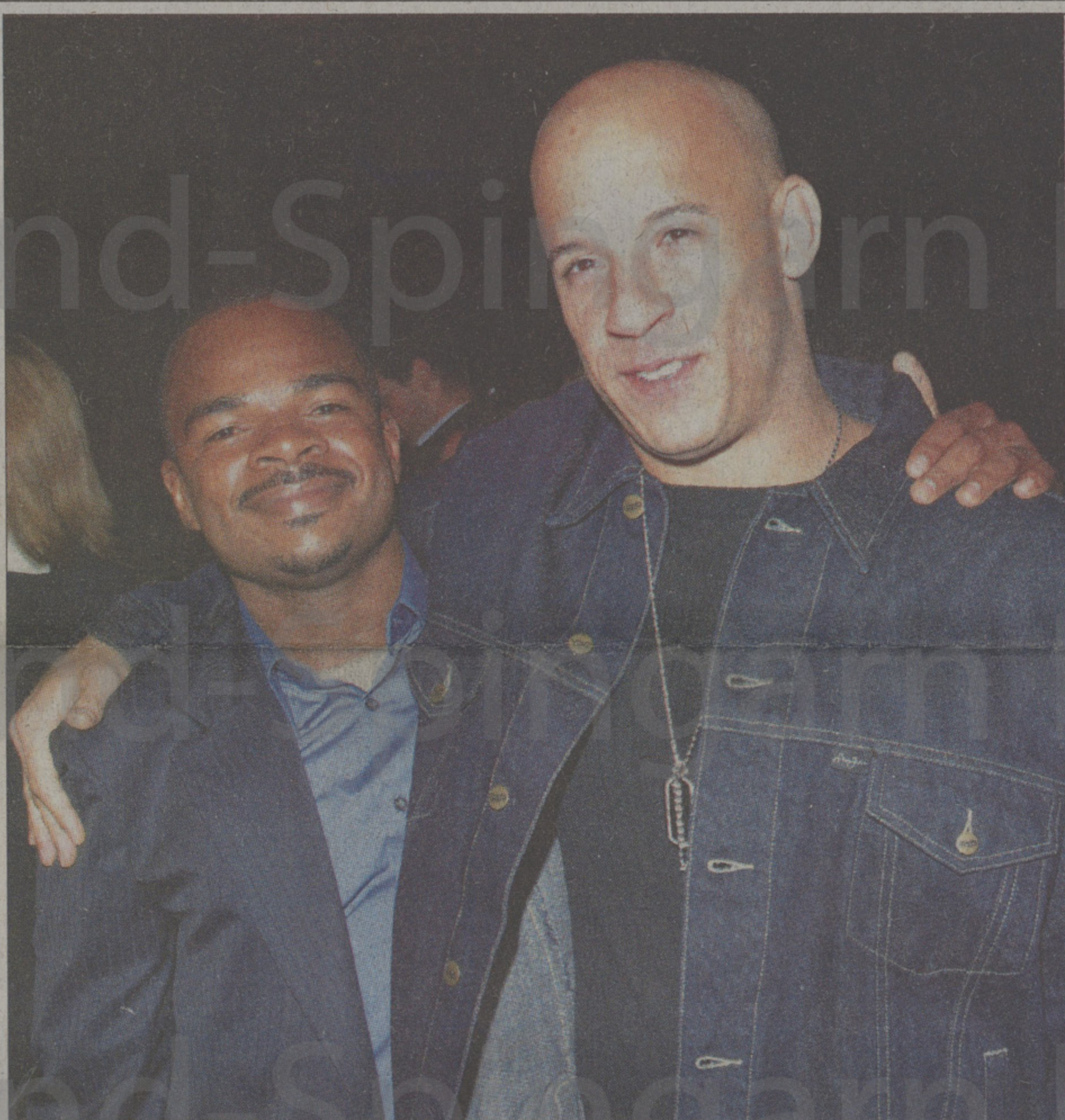


CEO Edward Liddy Testifies to congress about the \$165 million bonuses received by executives in his corporation. AIG has received almost \$180 billion in taxpayer money.

## Vin Diesel Faster in Franchise Comeback

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Staff Writer

Dominic Toretto was last seen escaping from the police in Fast and Furious, a rebellious action-packed racing about the underworld of street racing. Since then, Toretto has been in hiding, as the franchise of fast cars and furious drivers has continued. Now, eight years after the premier of the first Fast and Furious film, Vin Diesel, along with the rest of the original cast, has reunited to create the fourth film of the series which will hit theaters on April 3. Diesel, who plays Toretto, said the reason it took his character so long to appear in another movie was because none of the scripts addressed the continuation of the first film. The fourth installment of the Fast and Furious movie series serves as the perfect opportunity to reintroduce his character. "It goes beyond the number that you would associate with a sequel," Diesel said. "It really tries to continue the Fast and Furious story line." This explains the choice on a non-numbered movie title. The seductive yet feuding characters, Brian O' Connor (Paul Walker) and Toretto join with the renegade bombshells Mia Toretto (Jordana Brewster) and Letty (Michelle Rodriguez), after a crime brings them back to the city of Los Angeles. From there, the fast-paced adventure continues across the globe with exotic coupes, provocative romance and undeniable speed. Diesel said it was mandatory that the original cast got back together because the saga of Fast and Furious is built on family and relationships. He said his approach for this movie was a little different because the



"Fast and Furious" star Vin Diesel has reunited with the original cast after eight years, for the fourth film of the Fast and Furious series.

venture is higher and the importance of the character relationships is already established. "One of the trickiest things of returning to a character is trying to anticipate how the character has changed over five years and incorporate that but don't change the character too significantly," Diesel said. "Finding some level of maturity, but still some how keep the characters consistent for the audience to trust and remember." In addition to the growth of his character, Diesel dabbled in the growth of the overall movie as one of the producers of Fast and Furious. "My experience as a producer was incredible on this film," he said. "Universal was so accepting of me they allowed me to take this film to the Dominican Republic." According to Diesel, being a producer him to shape the direction of the film. "I feel a little more accountable for the film," he said. "I want to do whatever I can to raise the bar." Diesel revealed that one of his secrets when both acting and producing is

to do whatever he can to make everyone else shine. Aside from producing and acting, franchises and Vin Diesel seem to go hand-in-hand although the actor confesses this was never in the plans. He said he is flattered to be recognized as creating more franchises than any other actor in Hollywood. "Way back in the beginning, I guess I had no idea," Diesel said. "I don't know why or how it happened, but when you're making a movie you don't think can this movie become a sequel or is this movie going to make a lot of money." Diesel said he is less concerned about how many people actually see the film and is more concerned that people appreciate the film and that it is effective. He said he doesn't need immediate gratification, but would rather spend more time fine-tuning and perfecting his performance. "My expectations on the film are all in the manifestation of the film," Diesel said. "I guess there is some kind of connection, some way to which my character speaks to the pop culture that makes them want to see more of it."

## Journalism Professors Layout New Industry, Report Tips for Success

BY TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Staff Writer

Journalism is the third-largest major for Howard University students, but in an industry that is making a drastic shift, the odds for graduates are changing. On Monday night, The John H. Johnson School of Communications had professors from the Department of Journalism answer the question, "Is Journalism Dead?" for students, during a panel discussion dedicated to the field's future. According to Journalism Professor Dr. Lawrence Kaggwa, the content of journalism will never be dead, but the distribution of that content may be changing. "If you're an underclassman you are here at the right time," Kaggwa said. "You have a chairman who has designed workshops where you are working ....so that by the time you come out of here, you are a multi-journalist." Just being a good writer will no longer be enough — students wanting to pursue a career in journalism will have to be familiar with all aspects of the field. To prepare Howard students for this new multimedia field, the Department of Journalism is in the process of developing an interactive media minor, which will take a disciplinary approach. "This new world requires a certain level of intensity," said Journalism Professor Craig Herndon. "You might have to go out as a broadcast journalist and then go back and write a piece that has to be printed." But with the newly created "citizen journalist" — witnesses to relevant events or issues — it seems that anyone can report the news. Herndon said one of the important parts of "citizen journalists" is that the people who would typically read the news are getting to determine what is covered.

"I'm skeptical to call them journalists if they are not seeking the tenants of journalism which are to seek truthful reporting and minimize harm," said Peggy Lewis, a journalism professor. Blogging is another popular way for people to receive news, but according to Herndon, today the people blogging are those who are journalists or were journalists and a lot of it is focused on culture. With the phenomenon of original news sources, an entrepreneurial mindset is another thing that up-and-coming journalist must be equipped with. Today, journalists are not getting paid the same amount they used to for producing content. "The industry is grappling with the economics of journalism," Lewis said. "Advertising used to pay our salary, but now that is diminishing. You have to make sure you don't give away your expertise for free. Make people pay." Lewis said students can no longer just prepare to write the content, they must also figure out how to make money from it. According to Kaggwa, newspapers will survive as long as they continue to be looked at as a business. He said that major newspapers like the New York Times and the Washington Post are looking for ways to survive the changes of the industry. These publications are all seeking ways to make a profit off things that people look at on-line or on their phones for free. All of the professors said that students who have aspirations of a career in journalism should try to gain experience from day one. "It is really important that if you call yourself a journalist, you keep up with the news," Lewis said. "If you're not into news, if you're not noisy, if you're not curious then you should change your major."

## Student Organizations Stand to Hold Government Accountable

BY GENET LAKEW  
Staff Writer

In conjunction with several other organizations, Campus Progress will participate in the National Student Rally and Lobby Day on Tuesday. Together, with the U.S. Student Association and the Student Labor Action Project, worker's rights and inexpensive college education will be the central causes of the day. Participants are expected to demand that President Barack Obama and

the U.S. Congress to stay true on promises made, especially on matters concerning the youth. Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Penn.) are the expected speakers of the day's events, which will begin at the L'Enfant Plaza Metro Station. A central topic of debate will be college affordability and the calling for every student's right to access education. Specifically, Campus Progress and their partners demand a decrease

in student loan debts and an increase in financial aid. According to facts posted on the Campus Progress Web site, between 2001 and 2010, 2 million academically qualified students will not attend college because they cannot afford the costs. Today, the average college graduate inherits about \$3,200 in credit card debt and \$18,900 in student loans. An issue of concern is the Federal Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which, if passed, will allow certain children of im-

migrant parents to obtain legal residency. This way, they will no longer be forced to pay out-of-state tuition for schools within their states. The Act will also "eliminate a federal provision that penalizes states that provide in-state tuition without regard to immigration status," according to the National Immigration Law Center's Web site. For union workers, the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) seeks to strengthen the operation of union organizations.

There are instances in which employers threaten their employees with termination if they participate in unions. EFCA will end this intimidation and allow workers an outlet to express their conditions at work. As Obama and his team are creating the federal budget, Campus Progress urges citizens, especially young citizens, to voice their concerns and hold the U.S. government to its promises.

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Dumas will be shopping her show "Olympic High" to television networks in hopes to accurately depict the real-life experiences of high school students today.

# Shop Around: Student to Pitch New TV Series to Networks

BY JESSICA LEWIS  
Staff Writer

For one student, the term "shopping" can mean something entirely different when her future is on the line.

Sophomore television production major Zon Dumas is concluding work on a trailer for a television series she hopes to shop around to major television networks.

Dumas, 17, has already had the opportunity to train under the direction of Spike Lee as a production assistant during the Refresh the World Symposium held at Howard University on January 19.

Recently, *The Hilltop* had the opportunity to sit down with her after she finished shooting in Chicago.

*The Hilltop:* What exactly is it that you are doing?

*Dumas:* With my production company, Le Chocolat Chaud Co. LLC, I am shooting a trailer for a series that I want to shop for a major television network. When I graduated from high school — I graduated early at 16 — all my friends were still in high school. They would call me and tell me the things that were going on back at school...I realized how far removed I was from it, being in college and having different priorities. I then decided to turn my high school experiences into a great TV show.

*The Hilltop:* Can you elaborate on what we can expect from the show?

*Dumas:* It's called Olympic High. Every character in the

show, from the students to the faculty, has a secret. So the show is about the different things that characters will do to maintain their secret. Whether it's the shop kid's homosexuality or teacher/student relationships, it's all things that happened in high school and it's coming from a new perspective.

*The Hilltop:* What makes this show different and unique? What was your personal motivation for creating the series?

*Dumas:* Personal motivation was that I never saw anything on TV that I could relate to. You don't see stories about high schools that tell the real story. But I didn't just write about stories that happened to me, I talked to students from all around the country. Other students too felt that there was no show that was truly realistic of their high school experience. My show can help fill that void. That's how I knew initially that my show was different. Most shows try to remain on the surface and not really focus on each character. In my show, every character has a secret, a motivation that reveals another side of the character. It's almost suspenseful. The audience has the opportunity to watch the lengths at which characters will go to protect their secrets.

*The Hilltop:* How do you shop a TV series idea?

*Dumas:* There is going to be a month or two of editing. Right now, I am trying to create a buzz to attract an edgy television network. I am trying to find someone that will allow me to keep the content true to what is happening.

# Spirituality, Medicine to be Related in More Ways Than One at Annual Seminar Series

BY NOELLE MOTLEY  
HU News Service

The relationship between spirituality and medicine has been growing over the past decade as a field of study and instruction at the nation's medical schools. Currently, nearly 50 medical schools, including Howard University, Harvard University, the University of Washington and the University of Virginia have added courses addressing spirituality in medicine.

This week, hundreds of people from across the nation and the Washington area will converge on the Grand Hyatt hotel in D.C. to explore the subject in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Spirituality and Medicine Seminar Series.

The event, which is open to the public, brings together top spiritual leaders and physicians, sometimes in the same person. For example, six of this year's key speakers are ministers as well as medical doctors.

Glenda F. Hodges, director of the Howard University Hospital Division of Community Relations and the conference's founder, said the purpose of the three-day event is to illustrate the link between faith and the science of healing.

"People believe there's tension between faith and science," said Hodges, who has a Master's of Divinity degree. "We want them to understand the benefits of the unity of spirituality and medicine in the healing professions."

Participants will be addressed by such renowned pastors and physicians as the Rev. Charles E. Booth, the Rev. Harold B. Betton, M.D., the Rev. Ove-

ta Fuller-Caldwell, Ph.D., Michelle A. Gourdine, M.D., the Rev. Therman Evans, M.D., Ph.D., the Rev. Mark J. Wade, M.D. and the Rev. Reuben C. Warren, DDS, DPH. The conference keynote address will be delivered by Bishop Horace E. Smith, M.D.

Hodges will also introduce her new book, *Spirituality and Medicine: Can the Two Walk Together*, which was co-written by Rev. Betton.

The conference begins Thursday evening with registration, a keynote address and the gospel jazz band, Count the Cost.

On Friday, an all day session features early addresses by Larry Warren, CEO of Howard University Hospital, and the seminar co-chair, Dr. Robert H. Williams. Important discussions on a range of subjects, which include question and answer sessions, will be held throughout the day and led by the seminar's faculty.

Friday night is the popular Recognition Banquet, last year attended by 1,300 people. This event is to recognize the physician and member of the clergy who best represent the vision of combining spirituality and medicine. The speaker is Bishop Noel Jones, City of Refuge in Los Angeles. Music will be provided by a 100-member male choir, the Mighty Men of Reid from Reid Temple AME Church in Glenn Dale, MD. Tickets are \$100.

The conference concludes with a prayer brunch Saturday at which Bishop Shelton Bady of Harvest Time Church in Houston will speak. Tickets are \$45.00.



Director of Howard University Hospital Division of Community Relations Glenda Hodges founded the three-day conference addressing spirituality in medicine. Hundreds of people from across the nation are expected to attend from across the nation.

Only 20 more Hilltop issues left for this semester.

Don't fail Fundamentals!

Come to a Budget Meeting  
West Towers, Plaza Level, 6, p.m.

★★★★★★★★★  
**Bison Ball 2009 Unveiled**  
*Theme:*  
Unwrap... Unveil... Indulge  
*Explanation:*  
Chocolate  
*Colors:*  
Primary: Brown and Gold  
Ascents: Cream and Red  
*Reasoning:*  
Howard University is very diverse in culture and all that it does. With this theme, the committee will be using chocolate as a symbol to demonstrate how diverse students are and how sweet and addicting it is to be a Bison.  
*Date:*  
April 10, 2009  
This date is tentative.  
*Location:*  
This year the two segments of Bison Ball have been separated to include an awards portion and a gala at two different locations  
Excellence Awards to be held in Cramton.  
Ball to be held at the National Postal Museum.  
*Price:*  
Expect to pay \$30  
Price has not been finalized.  
★★★★★★★★★



## HOWARD UNIVERSITY

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 10, 2009

Dear Howard University Community:

On Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 8:30 p.m. eastern standard time, people around the world will turn off their lights for one hour during Earth Hour to show their support for efforts to find solutions to changes that are taking place in our climate. I am inviting the participation of the Howard University community in this activity.

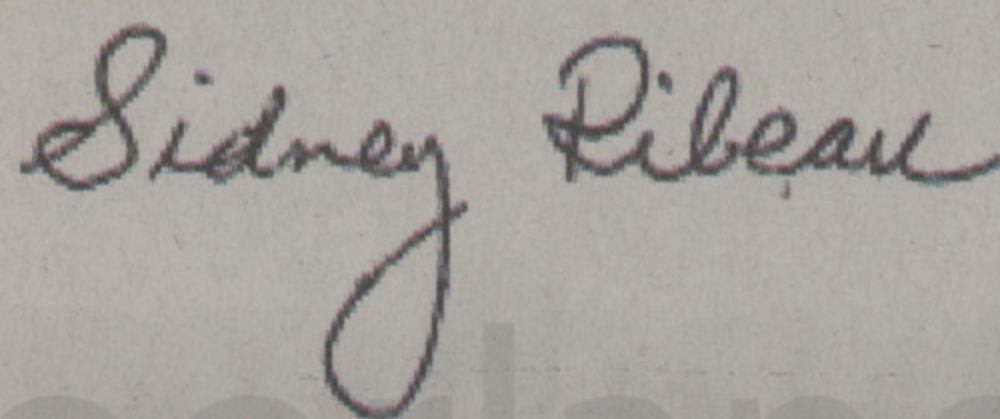
Please mark your calendars for this important event. Earth Hour is a global initiative, led by the World Wildlife Fund ("WWF"), which is designed to demonstrate concern for our living planet. Howard University will participate as a 2009 Earth Hour flagship University. In the fight against climate change, the University will take an active role in this initiative, turning out our lights, and encouraging students, faculty and staff to participate and spread the word.

As a flagship Earth Hour University, we will take the following actions to make Earth Hour 2009 a success:

- Sponsor (Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs) an Earth Hour event at the Flag Pole on the main campus from 8:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The event will be followed immediately by a Reception from 9:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. in the Reading Lounge of the Armour J. Blackburn University Center.
- Encourage the turning off of non-essential campus lights.
- Support the presentation of student concerns, about climate change to policymakers through the Earth Hour website and other outlets. [www.EarthHourUS.org/raiseyourvoice](http://www.EarthHourUS.org/raiseyourvoice).
- Promote climate conscious decisions and action at the University.
- Advise the WWF Earth Hour Team of the University's plans for Earth Hour via reports posted to [www.EarthHourUS.org/showus](http://www.EarthHourUS.org/showus).

Through its traditional leadership roles in research, teaching and service, Howard University will continue to make contributions to the national effort to address climate change. I invite the active and collaborative participation of faculty, students and staff in this worthy cause.

Sincerely,



Sidney A. Ribeau  
President





**ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS**  
**WERE YOU GIVEN A**  
**PROVISIONAL CLEARANCE TO REGISTER?**  
**AND/OR**  
**ARE YOUR IMMUNIZATIONS INCOMPLETE?**

**YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER FOR FALL SEMESTER**  
**AND**  
**THERE MAY BE INTERRUPTIONS IN YOUR ACADEMIC SCHEDULE**  
**AND/OR IT MAY AFFECT YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR UNIVERSITY**  
**HOUSING**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- You should check the Bison web page to see if you are on Medical Hold status
- If your immunizations are incomplete
  - You should submit the required documentation immediately or
  - You may make come into the Student Health Center between the hours of 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday to receive immunizations or clarification. Services will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

**Please DO NOT CALL THE SHC OR EMAIL INQUIRIES**  
**to ask questions about your immunization status.**

**CHECK the BISON WEB PAGE and/or SUBMIT THE APPROPRIATE**  
**DOCUMENTATION.**

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!**  
**THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS ON YOUR**  
**PROVISIONAL CLEARANCE.**

**OUR FAX NUMBER IS (202)806-7416**

**HU STUDENT HEALTH CENTER**



# Mayor Looks for College Students to Fill Green Jobs

BY NATALIE THOMPSON  
Metro Editor

For students staying in the D.C. area over the summer months, finding a job may be easier than expected. Mayor Fenty has just announced that his Green Summer Job Corps is looking to hire college students and graduates for supervisory positions.

According to [green.dc.gov](http://green.dc.gov), the program will place 800 youth in a variety of green-collar jobs. Projects will provide students with the opportunity to gain experience in environmental education, youth advocacy and urban sustainability. With two programs underway from June 18 to Aug. 21, college students will get the chance to choose their level of environmental involvement.

Green Summer, a program for new high school students or first time job seekers, will focus more on neighborhood beautification and clean up. The mayor's Conservation Corp, geared towards returning students and those with advanced interest in landscaping and the environment, will allow students to have a more specialized experience in environmental issues. Returning students have the option of choosing between both programs.

"It's sort of like going to college and picking a major," said Jill Worhle, a representative from the District Department of the Environment.

District residents between the ages of 14 and 21 are eligible for the program. College and graduate students are also sought for the program. They will serve as supervisors.

Supervisory roles will cover team leader, site manager and project manager positions. The salary range is from \$11 to \$15 an hour. Supervisors work 40-hour work weeks during the 11-week position and are responsible for team member supervision, solving conflicts and monitoring project completion.

The Green Summer Job Corps is run by the District Department of the Environment. Applications are currently being accepted until all positions are filled. To apply, visit [green.dc.gov/summer](http://green.dc.gov/summer).



Mayor Fenty is giving students between the ages of 14 and 21 the opportunity to work toward a greener environment this summer.

Photo Courtesy of [www.themokun.com](http://www.themokun.com)

## Metro Briefs

### DC Fights Back, With HIV/AIDS Protest

An organization named DC Fights Back staged a protest right outside of City Hall on Thursday, reacting to the recent rise of the HIV/AIDS rates in D.C. to 3 percent. Demonstrators scolded Mayor Adrian Fenty's lukewarm reaction to the city's HIV/AIDS epidemic. Standing outside of the John A. Wilson building, about 20 protesters demanded that Fenty declare a state of emergency to deal with the epidemic. Some protestors held and displayed empty coffins on Pennsylvania Avenue, while others laid on the streets to liken themselves to potholes. Police showed up and removed the coffins and drove the protesters out of the street.

### Coolidge High School Principal Resigns

The principal at Coolidge High School, L. Nelson Burton, announced his resignation. The school did not meet the "adequately yearly progress" (AYP) standards of the No Child Left Behind Act for five consecutive years. As a result, a private management firm will take over Coolidge, along with two other lagging high schools in the District. Friends of Bedford will handle the daily management of the school, while it remains within the D.C. Public Schools system. Burton said his decision to resign is not related to this overtake and that he is ready to move on from his profession as principal. Under Burton's direction, math and reading scores rose up slightly. Parent's criticized Burton for his insistence on Advanced Placement (AP) classes and tests.

### Staff Cuts at the Newseum

For the second time since November, the Newseum put in place job cuts, reducing its staff from 250 down to 219. Last week, 13 people working as administrative staff were laid off. Programming and education staff were not affected. The Newseum is facing financial strain after receiving decreased support from the Freedom Forum endowment, its main source of funding. Its financial grant decreased from \$600 million to \$400 million. No more cuts are expected for this year. The Newseum is a new facility and will celebrate its one-year anniversary in April, since its opening on Pennsylvania Avenue. Previously, it was located in Arlington, Va.

- Compiled by Genet Lake, Staff Writer

# CaliYogurt Store Provides 'Yogurt With an Edge'

BY CHABLE BRACKEN  
Contributing Writer

It's cool and crisp, but not too creamy or sugary like its ice cream rival. Frozen yogurt is changing the dessert scene and satisfying consumers without the guilt one gets from eating ice cream.

One place in particular that's breaking onto the D.C. scene with yogurt is CaliYogurt, located at 2473 18th Street in Adams Morgan.

The non-fat yogurt destination is fulfilling the needs of health nuts and sugar lovers of Washington.

Zach Johnson, a sophomore political science major, said CaliYogurt reminds him of being back home in California.

"I feel like California started it with places like Pinkberry and Golden Spoon that do the same thing. So, I see it as more of a West Coast thing that's branching out."

This dessert haven is not far from Howard's own Meridian Hill Hall Dori-

mitory.

Bea Akers, a Meridian Hill resident, said she adores the upbeat and inviting atmosphere, with its swanky décor and hint of retro charisma.

"I love CaliYogurt, and I'm not even a big yogurt fan. I'm surprised more people haven't gotten into it 'cause it's really good," Akers said. "I always get Captain Crunch cereal on mine, when I get a chance to get around there."

Besides toppings such as Captain Crunch, granola mix, almonds and walnuts, CaliYogurt also serves up fresh ingredients to top their yogurt delights.

Typically, they offer vanilla and a special flavor of the week which customers can then cover with their ideal picks.

The establishment presents a sizable display of fruits such as juicy strawberries, pineapples, kiwis, raspberries and blueberries, all neatly aligned in their own distinctive cubby-like container behind a glossy glass shield.

CaliYogurt creations' prices range from \$2.95 for a small to \$5.75 for a large.

Toppings run about 95 cents per pick; however, the second and third choices are discounted by around 40 cents each.

These prices may seem steep for the average college student's budget, but the portions are quite generous.

Plus, when one visits CaliYogurt continually, one receives a CaliYogurt card which is stamped every time a purchase is made. When nine stamps are reached, customers receive a reward on their tenth cup, which is generally a discount on a small yogurt.

"I'm not exactly crazy about how they charge, but the idea of making yogurt more of a dessert seems appealing," said April Barnes, a sophomore public relations major.

The ideas that some people once had about desserts are slowly diminishing. Frozen yogurt as a sweet tooth satisfying alternative is gaining edge, and many people appear to be jumping on board with the "Fro-Yo" movement.



Faraday Okoru - Staff Photographer



Faraday Okoru - Staff Photographer

Instead of having one's usual calorie-filled dessert, CaliYogurt offers a healthy, delicious and most importantly an affordable frozen yogurt alternative. California started this yogurt trend.

WRITE  
FOR  
THE

METRO  
SECTION

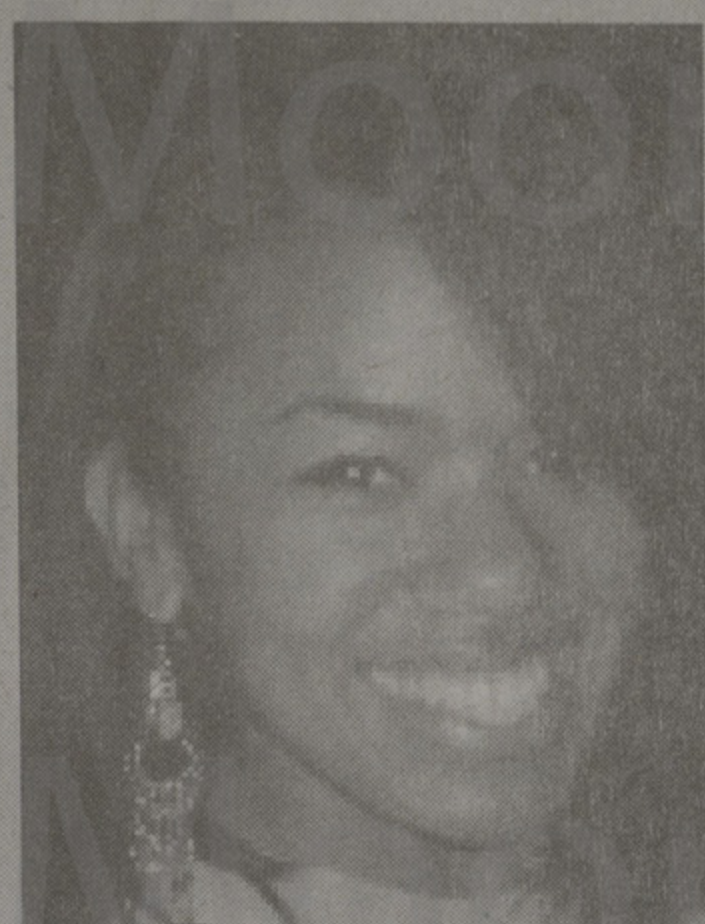
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## TRUE LIFE: I'm Homesick

BY ALEESA MANN  
Life & Style Editor

The day after spring break is kind of like the first day back to school, except instead of planning out their outfits, everybody's getting together their stories about what happened while they were at the beach. It seems that far too often what goes on during spring break, doesn't stay on spring break. Instead, it comes back to campus in the stories people tell. Unfortunately, I don't have a story, so when the infamous "How's your spring break?" question comes up, I just say "good."

Nashville, Tenn. doesn't have sandy beaches or exotic landscapes, but it is home; and it's where I spent my break. It seems ever since I came to Howard, going back home seems like a punishment.

Going away to college can be an eye-opening experience for college freshmen, and for me, it was. Coming to DC was a chance to live in a big city and get a taste of urban living. The metro, the clubs and the fast pace was easy to get caught up in; and I started to forget the things I appreciated at home. Why would I give up the posh furnishings at Love and Fur, for the hole in the wall clubs in downtown Nashville? What kind of shopping can I really do if there's no H&M or Urban Outfitters back home?

Sadly, I was beginning to stereotype the things home offered. Just thinking about going home seemed like a bad dream, one where I was trapped in the country side, barefoot and tipping cows for fun. But over the break, I found going home was a lesson in appreciating the things around me.

Sure it was kinda boring. I can't lie. There's not much to do and the nightlife, while on the come-up, is certainly lacking. So most of my time was spent hanging out with my friends. We talked about all the things we did in the past and all our crazy experiences. Somehow, in a city where country music reigns supreme, we managed to have fun.

Going home reminded me that Nashville will always be a part of me. Boosie will forever be making hits, that although ignorant, will satisfy the part of me that loves bass bumping, southern music. And nothing reminds me of home like a guy with southern drawl, I'm talking Gucci Mane, Rich Boy accents. Something about it just touches my soul.

Most of all, going home reminded me to be grateful for the people around me. My family, my friends, the people who've made me into the person I am. It's nothing like being able to talk to the people who've seen you grow up, and seen you through the good times, the bad times and those in between.

In the stress of school, going home is a lot like taking a deep breath. I think it's something that, as college students, we take for granted too often. If you've ever been going through a rough time, home is a place where you can step back from a problem and sort things out. Plus, it provides the convenience of your own bed and a kitchen stocked full of food. So, take advantage of the little time you are at home; it might not be the most exciting vacation, but you never know when you'll go back home to find your room has become your mom's personal storage closet.

# Poor Performance at Internships Threatens Future Opportunities

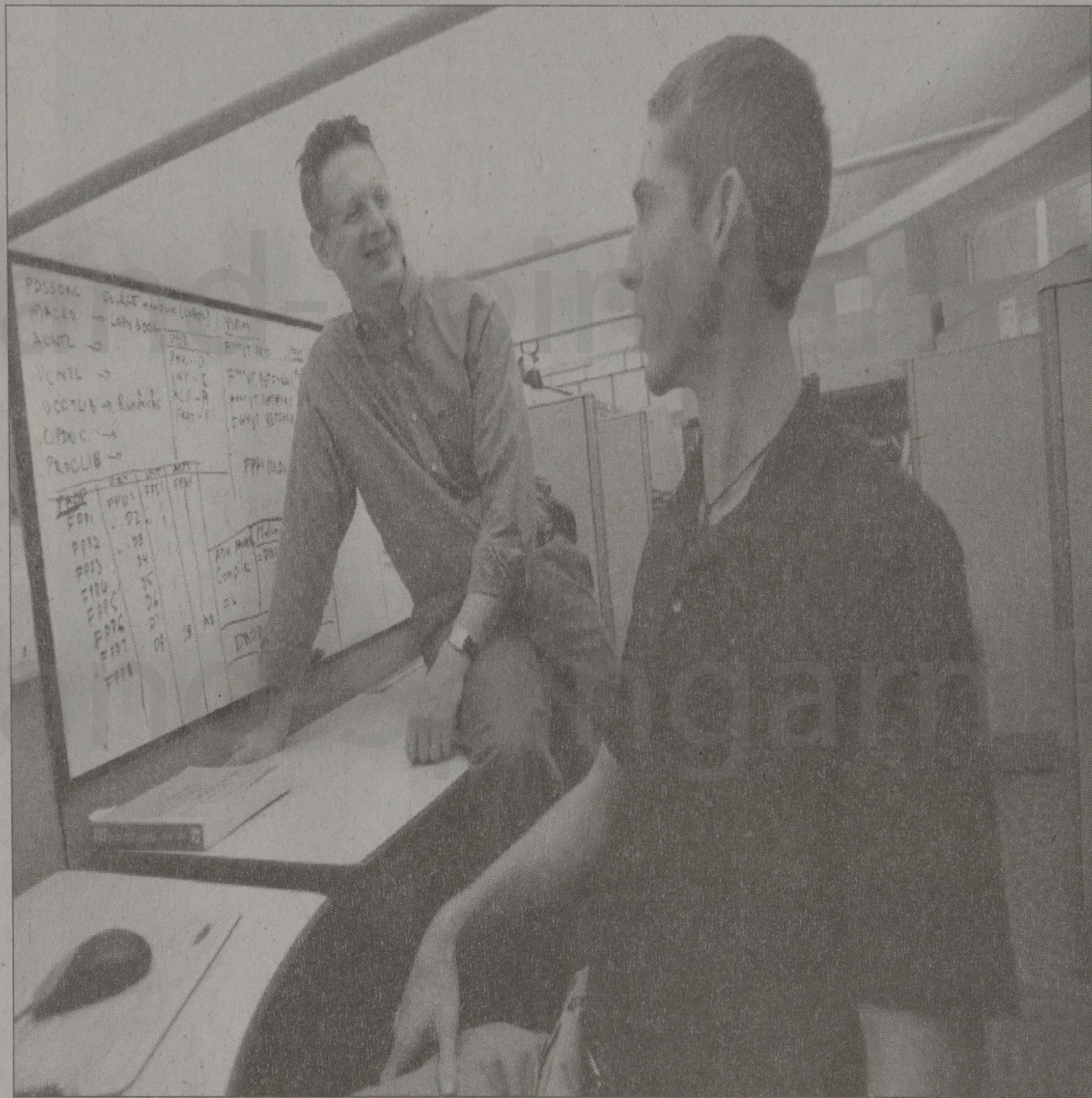
BY SASHA QUINTANA  
Contributing Writer

Internships can be a valuable attribute to a young professional's resume, provided he or she excels within their position. But how does a person redeem themselves from a bad internship?

With spring approaching, intern-

ship season is just around the corner. Students across all majors will be embarking on new experiences, as they seek to learn new skills within their discipline.

Career development coordinator Carol Dudley places hundreds of interns each year. Dudley is well aware of the common mistakes students make and how those missteps can affect future opportunities.



Brad Loper - Dallas Morning News (MCT)

When interning at a company, it is important to have a good rapport and to maintain a good attitude.

Dudley lists a number of inappropriate behaviors that will lead to termination or a negative reference. At the top of her what-not-to-do list: consistent tardiness, inappropriate dress, a bad attitude, incomplete inaccurate work and improper professional protocol when calling in sick.

Dudley said students who perform poorly threaten their future opportunities.

"A student's performance can spread through professional networks affecting employment after graduation," she said. "Redemption is an important factor for any student who has made a mistake, error or has done something disparaging within their discipline."

Students should also feel compelled to be honest with their supervisors by giving constructive feedback about their internship experience.

Marquis Barnett, a sophomore communications sciences and disorder major, interned last summer with a communications firm. He said he felt his opinion wasn't valued and the workload was abnormally large. According to Barnett, his frustrations peaked when he was given a few hours to contact 30 businesses to interview key management about their level of satisfaction with their current business partners.

Barnett said it was nearly impossible to speak with upper level management without an appointment.

"I only got eight of them to talk to me on the phone, and only three of them gave me concrete answers," he said.

After completing the internship, Barnett decided to write his internship supervisor a letter in which he made detailed suggestions for future interns.

"I suggested they delegate tasks on a smaller scale and gradually increase the workload to get interns acclimated," Barnett said.

Angelica Adams, a senior legal communications major, endured a demanding internship as a full-time personal assistant for a political candidate. Adams said she expressed concern when her immediate boss refused to excuse her from work, after she was diagnosed with acute pneumonia.

"She wanted to fire me because my sickness was affecting my work, and she thought it was just an excuse for me not to come to work," Adams said.

Adams said her superior work ethic enabled her to end the internship on good terms.

Dudley reiterated that students take internships seriously, because professionals often move around within the industry and "they generally don't forget names." If an internship turns sour, the student should take responsibility to reconcile with his supervisor, said Dudley.

"Even if you're terminated, a student should send a letter to their former supervisor expressing that they recognize their actions and they were not reflective of their usual performance," Dudley said.

The recipe for success when interning, said Dudley, is to attend professional meetings and network with professionals, get assistance from faculty advisors and build a support system with other interns. Also, she added, interns must complete their work with creativity and in a timely manner.

Brett Williams, a senior film production major, interned with the National Recording Academy. He encourages his peers to make a good first impression.

"Start strong and finish strong," he said. "We all make mistakes, but you just learn from them."

# Dru Hill Attempts to Climb Back With New Member

BY TALIAH GRAVES  
Contributing Writer

They have been missing in action for nearly seven years, but now Dru Hill is determined to prove they have what it takes to compete with today's young voices.

The R&B group is known for their unique music style, a style and sound that has always incorporated pop and soul to make their fans continue to want more.

They have been performing on their InDRUpendence world tour to promote their upcoming album under the same title, doing what they do best, giving their fans high energy concerts full of their hits such as "Tell me," "Bed" and "5 Steps."

Who other than the hit makers, Sisqo, Nokio, Jazz and Tao of Dru Hill, would decide to step back on the stage in early 2008 to show their fans they still have the smooth moves and the ability to make the ladies swoon from their melodic harmonies that would make a grown woman's heart melt at the sound?

They recently got back together with more surprises than anyone could ever guess. And to start off, they have a new member, Tao.

"I think they should at least try and make a comeback. They might just do as well as before, especially since there aren't many male R&B groups out right now," said Chris Paige, a sophomore accounting major.

Dru Hill graced the top of the charts from 1996 to 2002. According to Nokio, he feels they were not able to take it all in, so when the band decided to take a break, he saw it as a positive thing for them.

"This time last year, when we initially started working together again, it was just a time for us to grow as musicians, producers, writers, men, family men and ... everything else and you can't rush it; it's not something you can really put a time table on," said Nokio.

Not only were they growing mentally and in their family lives, they were also growing member wise.

With the release of their last album, a fifth member, Scola, was added; then, just as group member Woody left to pursue his gospel calling, Scola left as well for other reasons. That left Dru Hill as a three man band, but their sound was not the same.

"We were ready to go forward, but the one thing that we knew as a group was that ... when we tried to do the group as me, Sisco and Jazz we had

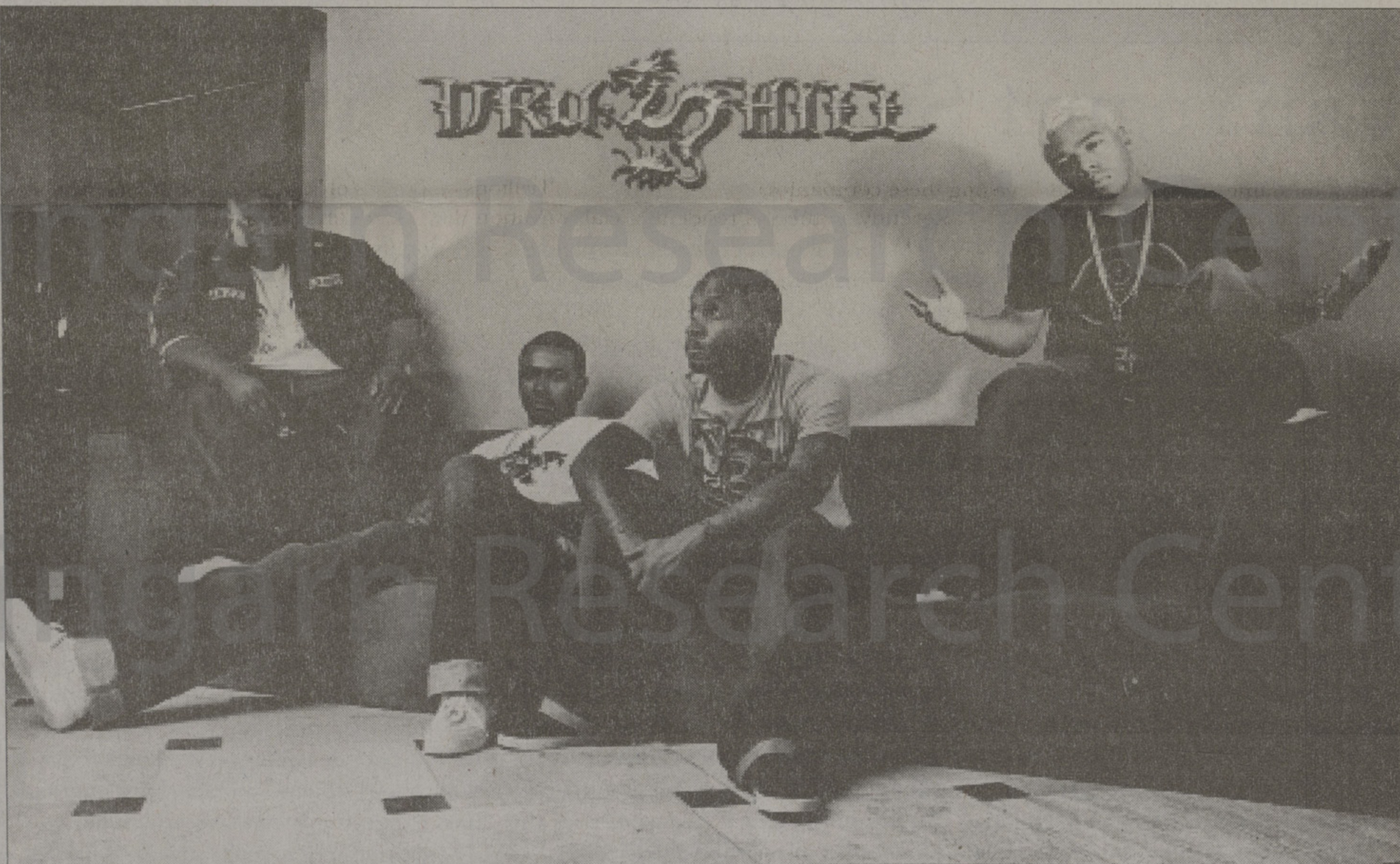


Photo Courtesy of Hannibal Matthews

(From left to right) Jazz, Tao, Nokio and Sisco make up the new Dru Hill. They broke onto the scene in 1996 with their self-titled album. Now with new member, Tao, the group is returning to the studio.

a great tour; it worked, but you're used to that four part harmony," said Nokio. "It is almost like a crutch ... We talked to Woody, and we said ... we're gonna have a contest."

It was that day that Jazz, Sisco and Nokio saw the artist who blew them away.

"We had the contest, and Tao got up there and he jammed it. We knew him, but we hadn't seen him really perform in that light and we just felt like he would be a great fit," Nokio said.

With Tao, to complete the quartet all of the fans know and love, Dru Hill worked tirelessly to complete the single, "If You Fall." It is the first single they have released, and it will be featured on their fourth studio album.

"If You Fall" is "full energy from the time that the record comes on to the end," Nokio said.

While also giving the premise behind the track he believes anyone can relate to, Nokio expected the fan response may be a little slow. But, they have gotten many responses from everyone who has heard the new single after putting it on their Myspace pages.

"We're getting a thousand hits on the page just from people listening to that record or ... I go on the Net and I see another site that has just discovered it, put-

ting it up," said Nokio. "Some people's opinions and the responses toward it really have said a lot more positive than negative."

Fans agree.

"I like it," said Francesca Harper, a junior video production major, after hearing "If You Fall" for the first time.

Some fans are a little unsure. "It's very different. I can't say that I dislike it though. It could grow on me," said Caden Witt, a freshman international business major.

While Dru Hill is looking for approval for their new project, which is being released independently, they also are looking forward to showing off their other upcoming projects that include a reality show entitled "Platinum House" and a tell-all book in the near future.

"As far as the book, we're still in the process of getting it together. For all of the success we've had, not many people know anything about us ... other than the fact that we came from Baltimore ... people (don't) really know who we are at our core," Nokio said.

He gave a little bit of information on "Platinum House" and Keith Sweat, who is the mastermind behind the show. Sweat helped them on their first album and gave them the idea.

Thankfully, unlike many other

celebrities who do not have much control over what is shown, they do.

"We were very involved in every aspect of it, from the beginning of them asking us what we wanted to do on the show, to the way that it was shot," said Nokio.

Nokio compared their show to the other reality shows that end up as a "train wreck" or "car crash."

He said there is a necessity for showing everything in its natural state and for people to relate to them. The show is aired on Peachtree TV, a subsidiary of Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta or on its Web site online.

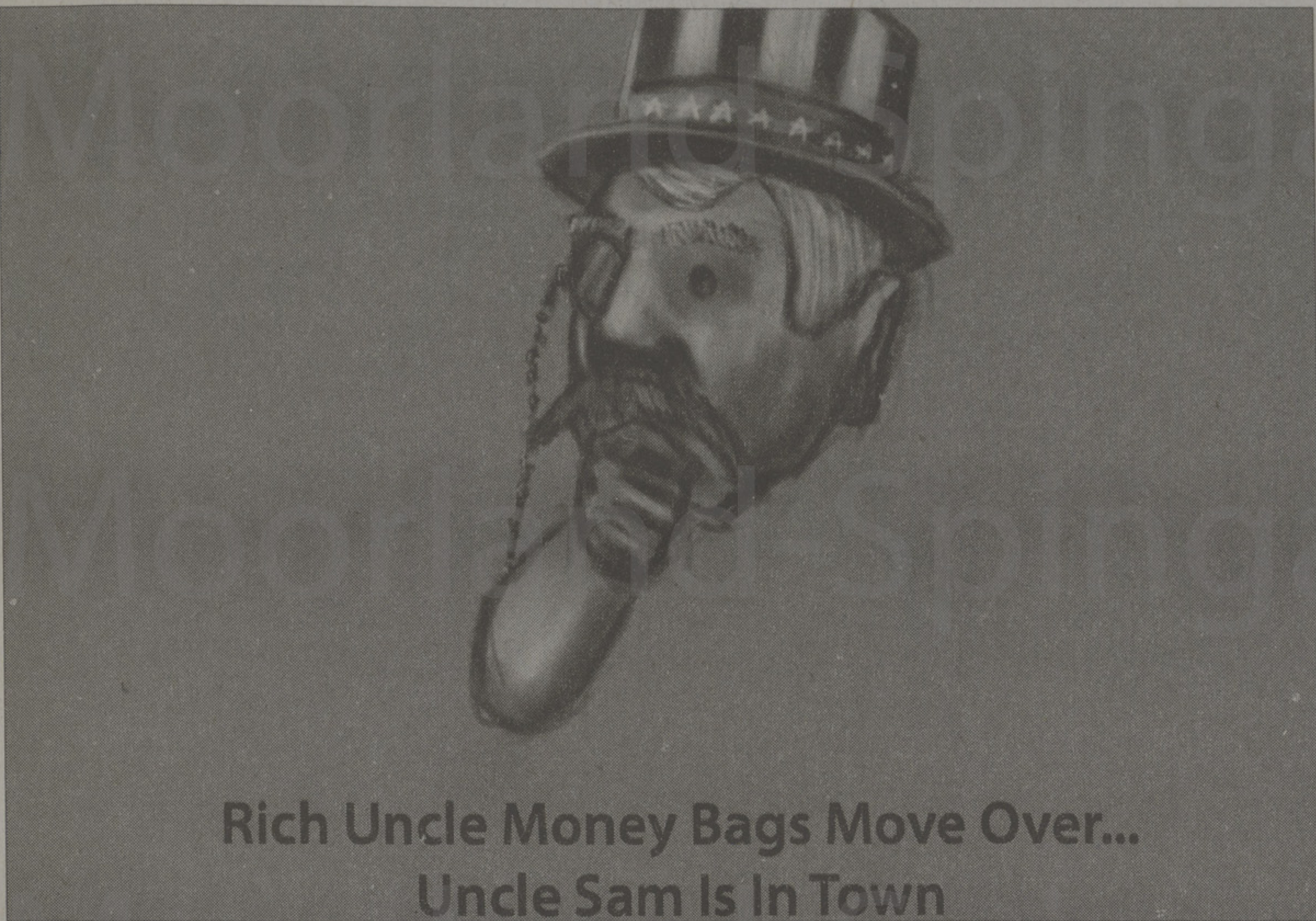
"A lot of stuff you will see on the show that I think is really gonna hit home with a lot of different people because it's just your everyday problems," he said.

Over all, Nokio said he wishes for fans to see they are real people.

"We're passionate about life; we're passionate about our music; we're passionate about our careers, and the number one thing for us is ... as a musician, you make music for yourself first," said Nokio, "because it's like, if you don't like it, then nobody's gonna like it; but we just try to, as best as possible, to stick to things and whatever we do that anybody out there can relate to."

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS' LIVES & STYLE. COME TO A BUDGET MEETING!  
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# President Obama May Be Tackling Too Much At Once

The costs of inflation lingering in the air are already affecting our spending habits. The national unemployment rate teetering the depression realm at almost 14 percent scares young Americans into staying in school, which isn't a bad thing, and already employed Americans into that now-common fearful mindset — is my job going to be there tomorrow?

So, President Obama, now more than halfway into his first 100 days, is doing the right things to make America stop hurting. He picked up where the former President George Bush left off by trying to fix the financial institutions, like Merrill Lynch, CitiGroup and American International Group, who are the basis of the country's flowing economy.

The companies that provide trillions of dollars in credit lines for auto financiers, bank lenders, department stores, and educational lenders, to name a few, are the reason why all of said creditors are out of business.

If the federal government hadn't stepped in to help them, national economic growth credit-wise - which is everything the American economy is based on - would falter and we would've been in a depression yesterday.

What President Obama needs to do is focus on reducing inflation and producing jobs, as he is

focusing and talking about doing, but the monetary output should be for financial institutions only.

They are the root of all of this "evil," if you will, and nothing else — not universal health care, greening the environment, bettering education — should come before it on the list of "Obama's

sion.

And while daily bailout routine can get old to the lips and ears of everyday people, as far as polls are concerned, this country's economic policy is all that matters right now.

The unemployment rate is dangerously high, to a point where if it reaches 10 percent, theoretically, the country is depressed.

The African American jobless rate is at 13.8 percent. What's that say about how black people feel?

Americans in general don't want to spend the way they used to last month, nevermind last year with the prices of food, gas and electricity rising. Those are things we need, too.

What financial monotony is occurring in companies who sell the things we don't need daily like Nike sneakers, organic vegetables, and Starbucks? Who is losing jobs because of Americans cutting back on their Jordan collecting?

Trillions of dollars of financial salvation for these financial companies that don't seem to be doing anything right is the right move by President Obama, and was even the right move for the former, and more controversial President Bush.

To lose sight of what is most important for Americans right now, can mean a worse and even longer period of economic strife.

## Our View:

*Mr. President, focus on the banks and the banks only...for now.*

Things to Do."

To bring it to a broader focus, if President Obama loses focus on saving the financially unstable investment institutions now, other nations will fail even more than we are, if not faster. The fate of economies in China, Japan, France, and England rest on salvaging these companies.

Recently, the President stepped out of his normal "bail-out" routine, and began to tinker with universal health care policy. While the idea is a fabulous one - making health care available to all American citizens - and is an idea that has done well in countries like Canada and Cuba, Canada and Cuba don't have multi-billion dollar financial monopolies collapsing under their government's supervi-

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We'd like to hear from YOU!

Submit your perspective to hilltopeditorials@gmail.com

Please include your major and classification!

# Daily Sudoku

## Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting!

Sunday @ 6 p.m. in the West Towers

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Any questions? Contact The Hilltop Business Office at 202 806 4749 or email us at hilltopbusiness@gmail.com.

**Want to have a lasting memory from Bison Ball 2009? Leave a message to Yourself, Friend, or Organization in the Souvenir Book entitled "Continuing the Indulgence". Stop by the Bottom of Blackburn to get more information.**

**Need a summer job? The Prince George's County Department of Parks & Recreation Aquatics team has something for everyone!**

**Now hiring lifeguards, swim instructors, pool managers, customer service representatives and more. Lifeguards start at \$9.30/hour. E-mail PG-Aquatics@pgparks.com or call 301-249-8880.**

**Come take part in Excellence Awards 2009 by Voting for Outstanding New Bison Faculty, Outstanding Administrator of the Year, Outstanding Professor of the Year, and the 1st Annual Bison Choice Award. Come visit the Bison Ball Planning Committee TODAY from 12pm-3pm at the Bottom of Blackburn.**

The Homecoming Steering Committee is still looking for interested individuals in the following positions.

Web Designer  
Graphic Designer  
Operations Assistant  
Gospel Show Coordinator  
Vending Liaison  
International/Poetry  
Cipher Coordinator

If you have what takes and you are creative, talented, and love events, this is the job for you.

We will be accepting application all week long, they are due March 27, 2009 by 3:00 p.m. in the Office of Student Activities.

**Curriculum & Instruction Department of School of Education presents Yes You Can Impact Change - Open House- March 24 4-6 pm, Blackburn Rm. 148-150.**

*The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. present... 2009 King of the Ivy Pageant Auditions Tuesday March 24th & Wednesday, March 25th The Auditions are only for freshman, sophomore, or junior males and talent for the intermission. Talent for intermission can be a group or individual. Location TBA 7:08*

Register for the NCNW 2nd Annual Height of Black Womanhood Celebration TODAY! Celebrate the works of everyday black women and reach a new height of understanding... HBW Gala Friday, March 27, 2009 7:00pm, Blackburn Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Dorothy I. Height  
Opening Speaker: Malmah Karmo  
MC: Cynne Simpson

HBW Conference Saturday, March 28, 2009 8:00am - 3:30pm, Blackburn Center HBW Chapel & Sunday Brunch 11:00am, Cramton Auditorium

ALL events are FREE!

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Register in the COAS Student Council Office or email hbw@ncnwhu-section.com Visit ncncowardsection.com for more info.

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